

October 23, 2006

Re: WC Docket No. 06-74

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to urge your approval of the AT&T-BellSouth merger. As the Executive Director of the United Way of Southwest Alabama, I am aware of the merger's progress and particularly the developments of the past few days. I believe that this merger will serve the public interest and greatly benefit customers of the combined company including those served by our organization.

The commitments that AT&T recently announced for much greater broadband affordability and availability would be especially beneficial to clientele of the United Way. Many of the low income and disadvantaged people we serve have not had the same access to information that broadband services can bring. I can't help but believe that better access to broadband would bring great benefits to this population.

I understand that AT&T has proposed to the Commission a commitment to provide its dial access customers a free modem for upgrading to DSL service. I also understand the company has offered to make available a \$10 monthly residential broadband offering as well as deliver broadband capability to all residential units in its combined territory, including lower-income and rural areas. These commitments will drive high-speed broadband usage and help bring economic prosperity to many in the United Way's target constituency.

I urge the Commission to approve the merger of AT&T and BellSouth promptly so that all consumers can benefit as soon as possible from the broadband provisions this merger offers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Angelo Miller  
Executive Director  
United Way of Southwest Alabama